

Preliminary Flood Maps Gallatin County Appeals, Protests, & Comments Information & Instructions

Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) and a Flood Insurance Study (FIS) have been issued by FEMA for review. A comment period will commence on July 9, 2010, and run through October 1, 2010, where citizens may formally challenge the information shown on the Preliminary DFIRM or FIS report. Challenges may be submitted as appeals, protests, or comments. Each is described below:

Comments	Non-technical concerns over the content of the map. An example of a comment is the identification of an incorrect street name
Protests	Disputes that do not relate to proposed new or modified base flood elevation (BFE), but do relate to other new flood hazard information or corporate limits information shown on the FIRM. Protests do require scientific or technical data to support the change. An example of a protest is a request to revise the floodplain of a restudied stream based on more detailed topographic information.
Appeals	Questioning of proposed new or modified BFEs by submitting data to show that the BFEs are scientifically or technically incorrect (submission of a new hydrologic or hydraulic model). Appeals are defined in 44 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Section 67.6. Requests for changes to effective (i.e., unrevised) BFEs and/or base flood depths must be processed as map revision requests in accordance with Part 65 of the NFIP regulations (44 CFR).

Please submit two copies of all appeals, protests, & comments to the designated representative for the community as shown on the attached table. The designated representative will then send the information to FEMA's contractor (Michael Baker Jr., Inc.) for review. **Submittals must be received by the appropriate community contact by 5:00 p.m. on October 1, 2010, and must include the following information: name, address, & technical backup data (appeals & protests only).**

Following the appeal period, a technical review of the submitted material will be performed by FEMA and their contractor to insure that the backup data submitted meets the FEMA Guidelines & Specifications. The submittal must provide proof of error, and sufficient data to make revisions (e.g., bridge plans, cross-section data). Certification of data by a Registered Professional Engineer or Licensed Land Surveyor may be required for some data. Additional information on the data required to support protests and appeals can be found on the internet at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3448>

FEMA will review all appeals, protests, & comments. If additional supporting data is required, a letter will be sent requesting such information. If the additional data is not provided within 30 days, the appeal or protest will be resolved on the basis of data already received. For submittals that meet the submission requirements, FEMA may send letters explaining the outcome of the appeal to the community's designated representative, copying the appellant/protestor.

If a valid appeal results in a change to the base flood elevations, the DFIRM and FIS will be re-issued as a revised preliminary package. Most often, FEMA incorporates changes resulting from comments at the time that the final reproduction materials are prepared; however, if the changes are significant, FEMA may prepare and distribute Revised Preliminary copies or Proof Copies of the DFIRM and FIS report. Also, the resolution responding to challenges other than appeals may be included as a special insert in the Letter of Final Determination (LFD) sent by FEMA to the County.

In most cases, FEMA shall provide a comment period (usually 30 days) following the date the resolution letter is issued before proceeding with the processing of the revised DFIRM and FIS report by preparing and issuing a Letter of Final Determination (LFD). The LFD starts the 6 month compliance period leading up to the effective map date. The "final" effective map is the map used as a guide for regulatory and insurance purposes. FEMA shall address any comments received during this comment period before proceeding with the maps.

June 1, 2010

Preliminary Flood Maps Appeals, Protests, & Comments Form

Gallatin County, the City of Belgrade, the City of Bozeman, and the City of Three Forks appreciate your input on the Revised Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) recently released by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for public review and comment. Your comments, appeals, and protests will identify issues and concerns of importance throughout the adoption process.

Name _____ Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address _____

Physical Address of Property in Question _____

Section __ Township __ Range __ Lot/Tract __ Geocode _____

FEMA MAP PANEL NUMBER _____

PLEASE IDENTIFY THE TYPE OF OBJECTION:

- ☐ Appeal: Technical Issue (e.g.; elevation)
☐ Protest: Delineation of the Floodplain Boundary
☐ Comment: Map Error (e.g.; street name, city limit boundary, etc.)

FOR COMMENTS PROVIDE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE:

Continue on additional paper if needed.

FOR APPEALS AND PROTESTS, PROVIDE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE & ATTACH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO THIS FORM i.e. elevation certificate, topographic maps, engineering study, photograph of flood event, etc.

Continue on additional paper if needed.

Submit two copies of completed forms and attachments to the appropriate contact from the table below. The local contact will be forwarding all information to FEMA. Submittals are due by 5:00 p.m. October 1, 2010

	Contact Person	Mailing Address
Gallatin County Unincorporated Areas	Sean O'Callaghan sean.ocallaghan@gallatin.mt.gov (406) 582-3130	County Planning Dept. 311 West Main, Room 108 Bozeman, MT 59715
City of Belgrade	Jason Karp jkarp@cityofbelgrade.net (406) 388-3760	Belgrade Planning Dept. 91 E. Central Ave. Belgrade, MT 59714
City of Bozeman	Rick Hixson rhixson@bozeman.net (406) 582-2380	City Engineer's Office P.O. Box 1230 Bozeman, MT 59771
Town of Three Forks	Ray Noble rnoble@threeforksmontana.us (406) 285-3431	Town Hall PO Box 187 Three Forks, MT 59752